

Dear Commissioners:

I have just become aware of Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary just days before the election, with no pretense of balanced journalism. The ability of a private large broadcasting corporation to maneuver in such a blatantly totalitarian way is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, enabling large-scale propagandist agendas.

Because Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest, I believe it falls to the FCC to investigate and take the appropriate remedial action. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy, which is more substantive news about issues that matter. That Sinclair is allowed to force its sensational and spurious programming upon a captive public amounts to a most heinous act of censorship and despotism.

Fortunately, there are no Sinclair affiliates in my state, but there are in most of the most populous states, reaching 1/4 of the nation's households. I urge you to put a stop to this effort. Thank you.